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Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to inform you of the most recent instances of cooperation between the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists in bringing pressure to bear on the remaining Serbian population in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

1. On 21 May 2000, a team of foreign pathologists entered the local Serbian cemetery in the village of Bresje near Kosovo Polje and began excavations in search of mass graves in which, they were told, ethnic Albanians allegedly killed during the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia last year had been buried. The local Serbian residents were stunned to learn that unknown individuals were digging the graves of their relatives without their knowledge and approval. They requested an explanation from UNMIK and were told that the pathologists were looking for the graves of buried ethnic Albanians and that they were acting following a request by ethnic Albanians. They dug a few graves, but the protesting Serbs prevented them from further sacrilege. Needless to say, they found no grave, let alone a mass grave in which a single ethnic Albanian was buried.

2. On 22 May 2000 at about 1.30 p.m., a KFOR patrol blocked the road at the exit of the village of Cernice and arrested Miodrag Tesic from Partes, Vlastimir Jankovic from Donja Budriga and Ratko Trifunovic from Zegra on their way back home following a visit to a mutual friend. The KFOR patrol escorted them to its underground military headquarters in a multi-storey ethnic Albanian house. In the headquarters, the existence of which they learned for the first time on that occasion, they were questioned by KFOR officers who requested them to admit that they were members of paramilitary formations or of special units of the Ministry of the Interior or the Army of Yugoslavia. They also imputed to them that they were saboteurs and that they were in Kosovo and Metohija to carry out sabotage activities. They dismissed their claims that they were residents of neighbouring villages, a fact that could be corroborated also by KFOR officers from Partes. After an hour and a half, KFOR released the Serbs, apologizing that they had been misled by the local Albanians from the village of Cernice.

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These regrettable activities fall into the deliberate policy of the harassment and intimidation of the remaining Serbs, Muslims, Roma and other non-Albanians, aimed at expelling them from Kosovo and Metohija. The two aforementioned instances are also a patent illustration of the support and cooperation of the international presences, acting under United Nations auspices, with ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists. They also constitute a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and are contrary to the mandate of the international presences, acting under United Nations auspices.

Bearing that in mind, the Security Council is duty-bound to strongly warn UNMIK and KFOR that they must implement the said resolution fully and consistently and abide by their mandate scrupulously and conscientiously.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.